

# An Information Package for Students

## Stage 5 Electives 2025

# Murrumburrah High School



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This booklet will assist Year 8 students in selecting elective subjects for studies in 2025. Not all courses in this booklet will attract sufficient students to run. The final decision on electives will be made with regard to:

- a) The number of students selecting each course
- b) Timetabling considerations
- c) Specialist room availability

# General Comments

- Students will normally study three elective courses over Years 9 and 10 in addition to the compulsory courses of English, Mathematics, Science, PD/Health/PE, Australian History, Geography, and Civics and Computing Skills.
- In special circumstances only, a student may discontinue an elective course at the end of Year 9 and choose an alternative elective course in Year 10. This will be at the discretion of the Principal. Course choice will be limited to those running simultaneously as the discontinued course, and to courses with a vacancy in the class.
- Some classes may be conducted as “vertical” classes with Years 9 and Year 10 students in the same class.
- Not all courses described in this booklet may run next year. If insufficient students select a particular course, then a class will not be formed, and alternative arrangements will be made.
- In exceptional circumstances, a student may be given permission to study by distance education mode. Only students with clear educational goals, good organisational and time management skills, and demonstrated habits of independent learning would be considered for such a situation.
- Satisfactory completion of a course (either over 2 years or 1 year) will be recorded with NESA for a student’s Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

# Elective Requirements and Elective Course Fees

In selecting courses for study in Years 9 and 10, students and parents will need to keep the following points in mind:

1. Some elective courses have special requirements (often for student safety reasons) and/or monetary fees. If "Nil" is written next to the requirements in this booklet, then students should only need the usual pens and stationery expected for any subject.
2. Students should select courses for which they are prepared to provide the requirements – equipment, monetary fees, special clothing, and materials (such as construction materials, and fabrics) – in order that they can obtain satisfying quality experiences above minimum requirements.
3. In some cases, such as Food Technology, a monetary fee is required rather than students themselves providing the food items – this allows for more economical bulk purchases on the student's behalf. As practical work (such as cooking activities) in small groups is essential to develop competencies to a satisfactory standard (as opposed to simply watching a demonstration) students are advised not to choose Food Technology unless they can pay the fee set down in this booklet within the stated time frame.

Please see the next page for subject elective fees.

Please remember, that cooking creations in Food Technology and articles made in Industrial Technology courses then become the property of the students whose fees have helped pay for bulk purchases.

**NB.** In cases of genuine financial hardship, parents should contact the Principal, to confidentially discuss any difficulties. Alternative arrangements may then be made to assist.

**Principal  
Mr Dale Rands**

# Elective Fee Schedule - 2025

Murrumburrah High School Electives Year 9/10, 2025

<b>AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY</b>	YEAR 9	<b>NIL</b>	
	YEAR 10	<b>NIL</b>	
<b>CRIMES &amp; CATASTROPHES</b>	YEAR 9	<b>NIL</b>	
	YEAR 10	<b>NIL</b>	
Offered in conjunction with Commerce.			
<b>COMMERCE</b>	YEAR 9	<b>NIL</b>	
	YEAR 10	<b>NIL</b>	
Offered in conjunction with Crimes and Catastrophes.			
<b>DRAMA</b>	YEAR 9	<b>NIL</b>	Allow for Excursions over the year.
	YEAR 10	<b>NIL</b>	
<b>FOOD TECHNOLOGY</b>	YEAR 9	<b>\$100 per year</b>	Consumables
	YEAR 10	<b>\$100 per year</b>	Consumables
<b>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TIMBER</b>	YEAR 9	<b>\$90</b>	Practical
	YEAR 10	<b>\$90</b>	Practical
<b>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY METAL</b>	YEAR 9	<b>\$90</b>	Practical
	YEAR 10	<b>\$90</b>	Practical
<b>PHOTOGRAPHIC &amp; DIGITAL MEDIA</b>	YEAR 9	<b>\$20 per year</b>	
	YEAR 10	<b>\$20 per year</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORTS STUDIES (P.A.S.S)</b>	YEAR 9	<b>NIL</b>	
	YEAR 10	<b>NIL</b>	
<b>VISUAL ARTS</b>	YEAR 9	<b>\$50</b>	Practical
	YEAR 10	<b>\$50</b>	Practical

**Please note:**

- Year 9 to 10 students must have Year 9 fees paid in full before going into Year 10 electives.
- Year 8 to 9 students – A \$50 holding contribution is to be paid if any elective with a fee is chosen.
- Credit - if not allocated a subject – the holding contribution will go to a 2025 cost.

# Agricultural Technology

Through the study of Agricultural Technology in Years 7–10 students develop knowledge, understanding, and skills that enable them to contribute positively to their own lifestyle and to the social, economic and environmental future of Australia. This syllabus provides scope for students to explore the many and varied career opportunities in agriculture and related service industries. It also provides students with an opportunity to experience aspects of an agricultural lifestyle through direct contact with plants and animals and a variety of related outside activities.

## Course Description

Agriculture and its associated industries contribute significantly to Australia’s economic, social, and cultural development and influence Australia’s prosperity through investment, employment of skilled workers, consumption of products from other sectors of the economy, and export of raw products and processed goods. The dynamic nature of modern agriculture results from the increasing knowledge and application of current and emerging technologies to the production, processing, and marketing of products. An understanding of the relationships between production, processing and consumption enables informed debate about the impact of agricultural practices on society and the environment.

Students will experience aspects of an agricultural lifestyle through direct contact with plants and animals and a variety of outside activities. Students investigate the viability of Australian agriculture through the careful managements of issues relating to the sustainability of agricultural systems, as well as the relationships between production, processing, and consumption. The study of a range of enterprises allows students to make responsible decisions about the appropriate use of agricultural technologies.

## What will students learn about and learn to do?

Through the study of agriculture students are encouraged to develop skills in order to solve problems, plan, organise and conduct scientific investigations, research, collect and organise information, work as a member of a team and communicate information to a variety of audiences. Students investigate and consider the impact of agricultural practices on the basic resources of soil, air, and water. The syllabus also provides opportunities for students to make responsible decisions about the appropriate use of current and emerging agricultural technologies. Students will spend approximately half of the course time on practical experiences related to the chosen enterprises, including fieldwork, small plot activities, laboratory work, and visits to commercial farms and other parts of the production and marketing chain.

<b>Requirements:</b>	A4 Book Shoes with LEATHER UPPERS Suitable work clothes (if possible) Hat or cap for sunny days.
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Nil

# Crimes and Catastrophes

The aim of Crimes and Catastrophes is to stimulate students' interest in an enjoyment of exploring the past, to develop a critical understanding of the past, and to enable them to participate as active, informed and responsible citizens.

## Course Description

This course enables students to develop knowledge, understanding, skills, and values that allow them to undertake the process of historical inquiry and communicate their understanding of past human experiences and events. Students are challenged to reflect on differing viewpoints and perspectives and to aspire to become individuals who contribute to a just society through informed citizenship. Via a number of topics, students will gain an understanding of the contributions of past and present peoples to our shared heritage.

Students studying Crime and Catastrophes (History Elective) further develop the skills of the 7-10 History course which would be beneficial to students choosing to study Modern or Ancient History for the HSC.

## What will students learn about?

The course is divided into three main areas of study:

**Topic 1** – History, Heritage and Archaeology, focuses developing students' understanding concerning the nature of history and the ways in which different perspectives/interpretations of the past are reflected in a variety of historical constructions. Students may study a range of topics including Biographies, Family History and Film as History.

**Topic 2** – Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Societies gives students the opportunity to study in depth, the major features of a relevant society and investigate the historical causation of events and factors contributing to continuity and change. Students may study a range of topics including Archaeology of the Ancient World, Medieval Europe and Ottoman Empire.

**Topic 3** – Thematic Studies provides students with opportunities to enjoy the study of history for its intrinsic value. Students apply their understanding of the nature of history and the methods of historical inquiry in their study of a particular theme. Students may study a range of topics including Children in History, Heroes and Villains, Crime and Punishment.

## What will students learn to do?

Students enrolled in Crimes and Catastrophes (History Elective) will learn to undertake the process of historical inquiry and to communicate their understanding via a number of mediums including written form, oral presentations, audio-visual formats and ICTs.

<b>Requirements:</b>	A4 Book and display folder
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Nil

### Please note:

- *that this is an entirely separate course to the Mandatory History Course and there is no overlap of course content.*
- *This course is offered in conjunction with Commerce.*



# Commerce

## Course Description

Commerce enables young people to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills, and values that form the foundation on which they can make sound decisions about consumer, financial, legal, business, and employment issues. It develops in students the ability to research information, apply problem-solving strategies and evaluate the options in order to make informed and responsible decisions as individuals and as part of the community.

## What will students learn about?

Commerce – new syllabus

The course is divided into two areas of study. The first are the core topics.

### 1. Consumer and Financial Decisions

Students learn how to identify and research issues that individuals encounter when making consumer and financial decisions. They investigate laws and mechanisms that protect consumers including the process of consumer redress.

### 2. The Economic and Business Environment

Students develop an understanding of the importance, and features of, the economic environment, including markets. They explore the nature, role, and operation of businesses in the context of an increasingly globalised economy.

### 3. Employment and Work Futures

Students investigate the contribution of work to the individual and society and the changing nature of work. They examine how individuals may derive an income, and the changing rights and responsibilities of workplace participants.

### 4. Law, Society and Political Involvement

Students develop an understanding of how laws affect individuals and groups and regulate society, and how individuals and groups participate in the democratic process.

A selection of options can also be undertaken. These include:

1. Our Economy
2. Investing
3. Promoting and Selling
4. Running a Business
5. Law in Action
6. Travel
7. Towards Independence
8. School-developed Option

## What will students learn to do?

Student learning in Commerce will promote critical thinking and the opportunity to participate in the community. Students learn to identify, research, and evaluate options when making decisions on how to solve consumer problems and issues that confront consumers. They will develop research and communication skills, including the use of Information and Communication Technologies (e.g. Computers), that build on the skills they have developed in their mandatory courses

They will also develop skills in personal financial management and advocacy for rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

**Please note that this course will be offered in conjunction with Crimes and Catastrophes.**

<b>Requirements:</b>	A4 Book
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Nil



# Drama

## Course Description

Drama in Stage 5 allows students to develop dramatic skills individually and collaboratively while making, performing, and appreciating dramatic works. Students creatively imagine worlds and make characters come alive through different forms of drama. Drama helps build confidence, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

## What will students learn about?

All students will learn how to play-build through the use of different stimuli. Students will also get the chance to study specific drama styles such as

- Improvisation
- Physical Theatre
- Scripted performances
- Melodrama
- Music Theatre
- Mask
- Comedy

## What will students learn to do?

Students will make, perform, and appreciate drama. They will devise their own works as well as perform scripted works. Students will respond to, reflect on, and analyze their own work as well as others. Opportunities will also be available to learn how to use lighting and sound equipment effectively, as well as organize, promote and put on professional shows at school and in the community.

<b>Requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A3 Art Journal</li><li>• Drama Blacks (Black pants and black top)</li><li>• Represent the school in public performances</li><li>• Attend professional drama productions</li><li>• Willing to step out of comfort zone</li></ul>
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Nil

# Food Technology

The Australian food industry is growing in importance, providing numerous employment opportunities and increasing the relevance of Food Technology for the individual and society. There are increasing community concerns about food issues, including hygiene and safety, nutritional claims and the nutritional quality of food, genetic engineering, functional foods, ethical and sustainable food sourcing, and the environmental impact of food-production processes.

Food habits change based on economic, social, cultural, technological, and environmental factors. In Australia, as a result of rapid technological change, consumers are confronted with an increasing array of food products designed to complement our changing lifestyles. Making informed food decisions requires an explicit understanding of nutrition principles in both theory and practice, and this is embedded in the study of Food Technology. This is essential to the development of sound food habits and contributes significantly to the well-being of all Australians.

## Course Description

The study of Food Technology provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of food properties, processing, preparation and their interrelationships, nutritional considerations, and consumption patterns. It addresses the importance of hygiene and safe work practices and legislation in the production of food. It also provides students with a context through which to explore the richness, pleasure, and variety food adds to life.

This knowledge and understanding is fundamental to the development of food-specific skills, which can then be applied in a range of contexts, enabling students to produce quality food products. Students explore food-related issues through a range of practical experiences, allowing them to make informed and appropriate choices. They are provided with opportunities to develop practical skills in preparing and presenting food to enable them to select and use appropriate ingredients, methods, and equipment.

## What will students learn about?

Students will learn about food in a variety of settings, enabling them to evaluate the relationships between food, technology, nutritional status, and quality of life. The following focus areas provide a context through which the core (Food preparation and processing, Nutrition and consumption) will be studied.

- Food in Australia
- Food Selection and Health
- Food for Special Occasions
- Food Equity
- Food Service and Catering
- Food Trends.
- Food Product Development
- Food for Specific Needs

## What will students learn to do?

The major emphasis of the Food Technology syllabus is on students exploring food-related issues through a range of practical experiences, allowing them to make informed and appropriate choices with regard to food. Integral to this course is students developing the ability and confidence to design, produce and evaluate solutions to situations involving food. They will learn to select and use appropriate ingredients, methods and equipment safely and competently.

<b>Requirements:</b>	A4 Book. This is an elective that involves a fee (which is necessary to cover the costs of food and equipment used in classes). Elective fees must be paid within <b>1 month</b> of the beginning of each semester to enable students to fully take part in all practical classes. Lunch box/container to hold leftovers labelled with student name.
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Year 9 - \$100 per year Year 10 - \$100 per year

# Industrial Technology- Metal

## Course Description

Industrial Technology Metal provides opportunities for you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the metal and associated industries.

It provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the use of materials, tools and techniques related to metal which are enhanced and further developed through the study of specialist modules in:

- Metal
- Metal Art

Practical projects will reflect the nature of the Metal focus areas and provide opportunities for you to develop specific knowledge, understanding and skills related to metal-related technologies. These may include:

- fabricated projects
- metal machining projects
- sheet metal products
- artistic metal projects
- jewellery and accessories

## Why choose Industrial Technology Metal

- Develop skills in the design and production of a variety of metal products.
- Good start for careers in the metal industries.
- Sound beginning for VET Metal and Engineering in the future.
- Practical skill development and problem-solving skills.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Pencil, Pen, 36-page A4 exercise book, A4 display folder, leather enclosed shoes, USB drive. Welding gloves and overalls would also be beneficial but can be borrowed.
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	The fees for this subject are below this will assist in providing the materials needed to complete this subject. Year 9 - \$90 per year Year 10 - \$90 per year

# Industrial Technology – Timber

## Course Description

The Timber focus area provides opportunities for you to develop knowledge, understanding, and skills in relation to the timber and associated industries.

The core module develops knowledge and skills in the use of tools, materials, and techniques related to timber which are enhanced and further developed through the study of specialist module.

Practical projects undertaken will reflect the nature of the Timber focus area and provide opportunities for you to develop specific knowledge, understanding, and skills related to timber technologies. These may include:

- decorative timber products
- furniture items
- small bowls or turned items
- storage and display units
- storage and transportation products

Projects will promote the progressive development of skills and reflect an increasing degree of your independence as you progress through the course.

## Why choose Industrial Technology Timber

- Develop skills in the design and production of a variety of timber products.
- Good start for careers in the Timber industries.
- Sound beginning for VET Construction in the future.
- Practical skill development and problem-solving skills.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Pencil, Pen, 36-page A4 exercise book, A4 display folder, leather enclosed shoes, USB drive.
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	The fees for this subject are below this will assist in providing the materials needed to complete this subject. Year 9 - \$90 per year Year 10 - \$90 per year

# Photographic and Digital Media

## Course Description

Photographic and Digital Media provides opportunities for students to enjoy making and studying a range of photographic and digital media works. It enables students to represent their ideas and interests about the world, to engage in contemporary forms of communication and understand and write about their contemporary world. Photographic and Digital Media enables students to investigate new technologies, cultural identity and the evolution of photography and digital media into the 21st century. Students are provided with opportunities to make and study photographic and digital media works in greater depth and breadth than through the Visual Arts elective course.

## What will students learn about?

Students learn about the pleasure and enjoyment of making different kinds of photographic and digital media works in still, interactive, and moving forms. They learn to represent their ideas and interests with reference to contemporary trends and how photographers, videographers, film-makers, computer/digital, and performance artists make photographic and digital media works.

Students learn about how photographic and digital media is shaped by different beliefs, values and meanings by exploring photographic and digital media artists and works from different times and places, and relationships in the artworld between the artist – artwork – world – audience. They also explore how their own lives and experiences can influence their making and critical and historical studies.

## What will students learn to do?

Students learn to make photographic and digital media works using a range of materials and techniques in still, interactive, and moving forms, including ICT, to build a Photographic and Digital Media portfolio over time. They learn to develop their research skills, approaches to experimentation, and how to make informed personal choices and judgments. They learn to record procedures and activities about their making practice in their Photographic and Digital Media journal. Students learn to investigate and respond to a wide range of photographic and digital media artists and works in making critical and historical studies.

Students learn to interpret and explain the function of and relationships in the art world between the artist – artwork – world – and audience to make and study photographic and digital media artworks.

<b>Requirements:</b>	A4 Book and display folder A digital camera SD Card USB
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Year 9 - \$20 per year Year 10 - \$20 per year

# Physical Activity and Sports Studies (P.A.S.S)

## Course Description

Physical Activity and Sports Studies aims to enhance students’ capacity to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others.

Students engage in a wide range of physical activities in order to develop key understandings about how and why we move and how to enhance quality and enjoyment of movement.

## What will students learn?

The course includes modules selected from each of the following three areas of study:

Areas of Study	Foundations of Physical Activity	Physical Activity and Sport in Society	Enhancing Participation and Performance
<b>M O D U L E S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body systems and energy for physical activity</li> <li>• Physical activity for health</li> <li>• Physical fitness</li> <li>• Fundamentals of movement skill development</li> <li>• Nutrition and physical activity</li> <li>• Participating in safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia’s sporting identity</li> <li>• Lifestyle, leisure and recreation</li> <li>• Physical activity and sport for specific groups</li> <li>• Opportunities and pathways in physical activity and sport</li> <li>• Issues in physical activity and sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting active lifestyles</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Enhancing performance – strategies and techniques</li> <li>• Technology, participation and performance</li> <li>• Event management</li> </ul>

Throughout the course students develop knowledge, understanding and skills that develop their ability to:

- Work collaboratively with others to enhance participation, enjoyment and performance in physical activity and sport
- Display management and planning skills to achieve personal and group goals in physical activity and sport.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Correct footwear to participate in sporting activities A4 Book
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Nil

# Visual Arts

## Course Description

Visual Arts provides opportunities for students to enjoy the making and studying of art. It builds an understanding of the role of art in all forms of media, both in the contemporary and historical world, and enables students to represent their ideas and interests in artworks. Visual Arts enables students to become informed about, understand, and write about their contemporary world.

### What will students learn about?

Students learn about the pleasure and enjoyment of making different kinds of artwork in 2D, 3D and/or 4D forms. They learn to represent their ideas and interests with reference to contemporary trends and how artists' including painters, sculptors, architects, designers, photographers, and ceramists, make art-works.

Students learn about how art is shaped by different beliefs, values and meanings by exploring artists and artworks from different times and places and relationships in the art-world between the artist – artwork – world – audience. They also explore how their own lives and experiences can influence their art-making and critical and historical studies.

### What will students learn to do?

Students learn to make artworks using a range of materials and techniques in 2D, 3D, and 4D forms, including traditional and more contemporary forms, site-specific works, installations, video and digital media, and other ICT forms, to build a body of work over time. They learn to develop their research skills, approaches to experimentation, and how to make informed personal choices and judgments. They learn to record procedures and activities in their art-making practice in their Visual Arts diary.

They learn to investigate and respond to a wide range of artists and artworks in artmaking, critical, and historical studies. They also learn to interpret and explain the function of and relationships in the art world between the artist – artwork – world – audience to make and study artworks.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Students are required to purchase an A3 Visual Arts diary.
<b>Elective Fee:</b>	Year 9 - \$50 Year 10 - \$50



## Contact Us

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